

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3216

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO MR. CLIFFORD AND MR. BRZEZINSKI
TUNIS FOR UNDERSECRETARY HABIB AND SENATOR PERCY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (PERCY), GR, TU, CY
SUBJ: CODEL PERCY: SENATOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
BITSIOS

1. DURING SOCIAL FUNCTION AT DCM'S RESIDENCE APRIL 8, SENATOR PERCY SAID THAT HE WAS CALLING ON FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS THE FOLLOWING DAY AT LATTER'S WEEKEND HOUSE ON HYDRA ISLAND AND IN PREPARATION FOR THAT MEETING WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEFING ON CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS AND OTHER TOPICS LIKELY TO BE RAISED. EUR/SE DIRECTOR LEDSKY DESCRIBED AND EVALUATED VIENNA TALKS AND SUGGESTED POINTS SENATOR MIGHT WANT TO MAKE WITH BITSIOS TO STIMULATE MORE ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE GREEK ROLE IN MOVING TOWARDS SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEM. FOLLOWING LEDSKY'S PRESENTATION, AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD, DCM MILLS AND ANKARA POLITICAL COUNSELOR MCFARLAND JOINTED IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES.

2. EVENING OF APRIL 9 SENATOR TELEPHONED DCM FROM HYDRA TO OUTLINE RESULTS OF HIS TALK WITH BITSIOS AND TO SAY THAT SECOND MEETING HAD BEEN SET UP FOR APRIL 10, FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS WOULD BE USEFUL. FOLLOWING TOPICS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH BITSIOS.

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3. PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER: FIRST QUESTION BITSIOS HAD RAISED WAS WHETHER CARAMANLIS WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN LONDON MEETING IN MAY TO EXPLORE THE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION IN AEGEAN IN WHICH GREECE AND TURKEY SEEMED TO BE ON A COLLISION COURSE, AS WELL AS CYPRUS PROBLEM. BITSIOS FELT CARAMANLIS WOULD NEED AT LEAST FORTY-FIVE MINUTES WITH PRESIDENT AND SAID ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD HAVE THIS LONG

WOULD BE MOST GRATIFYING. DRAWING ON GUIDANCE AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED EARLIER, AND SOMEWHAT INHIBITED BY FACT THAT CONVERSATION WAS ON AN OPEN TELEPHONE LINE, DCM TOLD SENATOR THAT WE UNDERSTOOD PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IN LONDON HAD NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT IN DETAIL BUT THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS TALKS WITH CARAMANLIS VERY MUCH AND WAS SETTING ASIDE AS MUCH TIME FOR THEM AS HE POSSIBLY COULD, BEARING IN MIND THE NUMBER OF OTHER LEADERS HE WAS ALSO MEETING IN LONDON. AFTER SECOND MEETING WITH BITSIOS, SENATOR PHONED DCM AGAIN TO SAY HE HAD TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER HE AGREED THAT ISSUES CARAMANLIS WANTED TO RAISE WITH PRESIDENT WERE IMPORTANT AND THEREFORE WOULD PUSH FOR MAXIMUM POSSIBLE TIME FOR MEETING IF GREEK LEADER PLANNED TO OFFER NEW INITIATIVES OR CREATIVE IDEAS FOR SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS. IF CARAMANLIS PLANNED ONLY TO REITERATE SAME OLD POSITIONS AND ARGUMENTS, SENATOR THOUGHT A SHORTER MEETING WOULD BE ENOUGH.

4. CYPRUS: AT FIRST MEETING WITH SENATOR, BITSIOS OUTLINED GREEK VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE OF SETTLEMENT. HE SAID PRESENT 38.5 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND WHICH TURKS OCCUPY EMBRACED 75 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND'S WEALTH AND MUST BE REDUCED TO ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THE AREA WHICH WOULD STILL CONTAIN 40 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH. (SENATOR TOLD DCM HE HAD FEELING THAT UNDER PRESSURE GREEKS COULD BE INDUCED TO ACCEPT MUCH CLOSER TO 30 PERCENT). GREEKS ALSO BELIEVE TURKISH-CYPRIOT DEMAND FOR SECURITY BARRIERS BETWEEN ZONES IS UNACCEPTABLE, SINCE THERE MUST BE FREEDOM TO MOVE, LIVE AND WORK IN ALL PARTS OF THE ISLAND. THIS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT POINT WITH GREEK-CYPRIOTS THAT BITSIOS THINKS IF MAKARIOS COULD HAVE HIS WAY ON THIS POINT HE COULD HANDLE THE DOMESTIC CONSEQUENCES OF CONCESSIONS ELSEWHERE. THEREFORE TURKISH-CYPRIOT PROPOSAL FOR "SECURE" BORDER BARRIERS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNACCEPTABLE, AND THEIR DEMAND FOR SEPARATE CENTRAL BANK AND CURRENCY IS ALSO UNWARRANTED. PRIMARY GREEK COMPLAINT IS THAT TURKS ENVISION TWO SEPARATE STATES ON CYPRUS WITH A TREATY BETWEEN THEM RATHER THAN A FEDERATION, OR EVEN A CONFEDERATION, WHICH GREEKS BELIEVE IS NECESSARY. GOG WOULD ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEE AND EVEN AGREE TO HAVING TURKISH TROOPS RETURN IF THE RIGHTS OF TURKISH-CYPRIOTS WERE NOT BEING RESPECTED.

5. AT BOTH MEETINGS WITH BITSIOS, SENATOR SAID HE HAD TAKEN LINE THAT AS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF GREECE WITH PERHAPS THE LARGEST GREEK-AMERICAN CONSTITUENCY IN THE U.S., HE FELT COMPELLED TO SAY THAT, JUST AS THE MOOD AND PERCEPTIONS OF CONGRESS TOWARD ISRAEL HAD DEMONSTRABLY CHANGED, SO WERE THEY CHANGING REGARDING CYPRUS AND GREEK-TURKISH DIFFICULTIES. CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD NO LONGER PUT UP WITH INTRANSIGENCE AND THE SAME STALE, RIGID POSITIONS BY THE PARTIES OR WITH WELL-ORGANIZED LOBBIES GOING OVER THE HEADS OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO THWART AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE IN OFFICE FOR AT LEAST FOUR YEARS AND HAS ALREADY SHOWN HE IS WILLING TO TAKE RISKS TO ACHIEVE HIS

FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. CONGRESS IS ANXIOUS TO GET ON WITH SOLUTION OF THE VASTLY MORE DANGEROUS AND DIFFICULT MIDEAST PROBLEMS AND IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT WITH THE INFLEXIBILITY AND INTRANSIGENCE OF BOTH SIDES ON CYPRUS. TIME IS NO LONGER ON THE SIDE OF THE GREEKS. WHETHER GREEKS CARE TO ADMIT IT OR NOT, THERE IS DEFINITE LINKAGE IN AMERICAN EYES BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN, WHICH IS A MORE VITAL ISSUE TO GREECE, AND THE GOG SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO BRING ABOUT A VIABLE AND QUICK SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS IN ORDER TO INCREASE AMERICAN WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE USING ITS INFLUENCE IN THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE AEGEAN. ALTHOUGH BITSIOS DENIED ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO PROBLEMS, SENATOR THINKS HE GOT THE MESSAGE AND REALIZES GOG MUST COME UP WITH MORE IMAGINATIVE LEADERSHIP AND FRESH THINKING REGARDING CYPRUS IF IT IS TO MAINTAIN CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN GREECE'S OTHER PROBLEMS.

6. SENATOR ASKED THAT THIS MESSAGE BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF
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MR. CLIFFORD AND MR. BRZEZINSKI IN WASHINGTON AND UNDERSECRETARY HABIB WHO IS VISITING TUNIS.
KUBISCH

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